



• Judge George Wallace Post

# POST, Second First Citizen

SECOND only to Jared Sidney Torrance in the roll of distinguished men who built Torrance comes Judge George Wallace Post, for whom Post avenue is named.

When Mr. Torrance founded the new city he sent a call to his close friend, Judge Post, advising him that here was the place he was needed. Judge Post, then a banker in York, Nebraska, heeded the call and came to the budding city to found its first bank.

And in one respect his deeds outshone those of the founder. For where Mr. Torrance had the courage to carry the new town through the dark days of

1914, through his "big business" connections, it was Judge Post's assistance that made it possible for many of the smaller merchants to survive.

#### Son of Minister

JUDGE POST (no one ever spoke of him as "Mr." Post) was born at Cumberland, Ohio, February 20, 1848, the son of the Rev. William E. and Sarah S. Post. Both his parents were of Scotch lineage.

In 1851 his family moved to Hibberdsville, Ohio, and remained there until 1859 when they migrated to Clay County, Missouri, only to enter a hotbed of slavery agitation. The Rev. W. E. Post was outspoken in his sympathies with the Union and, after destruction of most of his property, was glad to escape with his family to Leon, Iowa. From here they moved to Davis County, Iowa, near Bloomfield.

Judge Post was a stripling of 16 when he enlisted in May, 1864, in Company D, 45th Iowa Infantry, where he served until September.

Returning home, he attended Troy College at Troy, Iowa, where he worked his way through school. In the meantime his father died in 1868,

and Judge Post became the head of the family consisting of his mother, three brothers and two sisters.

Following his graduation from college, Judge Post was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1871, but soon moved to York, Nebraska, where he followed his profession, being one of the attorneys in the first law suit filed in the frontier county.

#### Elected District Judge

IN 1875 Judge Post earned his title, being elected district judge of the fourth judicial district, an office which he held for several years until overwork brought on failing health.

But Judge Post had made such an enviable record that he was appointed collector of internal revenue and United States disbursing officer for Nebraska, North and South Dakota. This appointment, March 5, 1883, came to him entirely without solicitation.

Elected president of the York Exchange Bank on March 20, 1884, Judge Post resigned his federal office in 1886 to devote his full time to its affairs. Several other banks were consolidated with this one before Judge Post resigned as

president, in August, 1912, preparatory to moving to Torrance.

#### 150 Years of Banking

DURING his Nebraska career, Judge Post was president of the York Exchange Bank, York National Bank, First National Bank of York, First Trust Company of York, Bank of Benedict, First National Bank of Benedict, State Bank of Bradshaw, First National Bank of Bradshaw, Blue River Bank of McCool Junction, Farmers and Traders Bank of Waco, and vice president of the Bank of Lushton. His banking service in these connections totalled nearly 150 years.

He also served his home city of York as park commissioner, councilman and mayor.

Moving to California in 1913, Judge Post organized the First National Bank of Torrance and was its president until his son, Wallace returned from the World War, when he retired.

Judge Post was married, January 1, 1879, to Miss Laura McConaughy, at Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. To them were born four daughters and one son. He died in Torrance June 30, 1923.

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